under control of the client task, sending a request to the server task to supply data in the selected data format;

under control of the server task,

receiving the request to supply data in the selected data format; and

sending data in the selected data format to the client task; and under control of the client task, receiving the data sent by the server task.

26. The method of claim **25** wherein the step of selecting the stored data format is performed without launching the server task.

27. A method in a computer system of transferring data between a client task and a server task, each task being an entity schedulable for execution on the computer system, the computer system having a persistent global registry, the persistent global registry having a plurality of stored data formats that the server task supports, the method comprising the steps of:

under exclusive control of the client task, selecting from the persistent global registry a stored data format that the server task supports, without a third task arbitrating the selection and without accessing the server task, wherein the stored data format can be selected without invoking services of the server task;

under control of the client task, sending data to the server task in the selected data format; and

under control of the server task, receiving the data sent by the client task.

28. The method of claim **27** wherein the step of selecting a stored data format is performed without launching the server task.

29. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for causing a computer system to transfer data between a client and a server, the computer system having a persistent global registry for storing data format information, by:

under control of the computer system, storing in the persistent global registry a plurality of data formats that the server supports;

under exclusive control of the client and without arbitration from an external process,

determining from the persistent global registry without accessing the server at least one stored data format that the server supports; and

selecting a determined data format;

under control of the client, sending data to the server in the selected data format; and under control of the server, receiving the data sent by the client.

30. The computer-readable medium of claim **29** wherein determining of at least one stored data format determines a plurality of data formats and the selecting of the determined data format includes:

under control of the client,

displaying on a display device the plurality of determined data formats; and

in response to user input, selecting a displayed data format.

31. The computer-readable medium of claim **30** wherein determining of the plurality of stored data formats, the displaying of the determined data formats, and the selecting of the displayed data format are performed without launching a server stand-alone executable entity.

32. The computer-readable medium of claim **29** wherein the determining of at least one stored data format and the selecting of the determined data format are performed without launching a server stand-alone executable entity.

33. The computer-readable medium of claim **29** wherein the storing in the persistent global registry of the plurality of data formats is performed when an application that corresponds to the server is installed onto the computer system.

34. The computer-readable medium of claim **29** wherein the storing in the persistent global registry of the plurality of data formats is performed when the server is launched.

35. The computer-readable medium of claim **29** further comprising:

under control of the server,

processing the data received from the client; and

sending the processed data back to the client; and

under control of the client, receiving the processed data sent by the server.

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